

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Published Every Thursday By The Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc.

Vol. 20, No. 27

Greenbelt, Maryland, Thursday, February 16, 1956

10 cents

## Mac Won't Comment To Press On Case

Three men were charged yesterday by Greenbelt police with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, but city officials refused to disclose the nature of the case.

City Manager Charles T. McDonald, who customarily releases information to the press, said he would not disclose the reason for the arrests.

Those charged by City Police Private Marshall Zoellner were Bob Ellis Morris, 22, Gordonsville, Va.; Alton LeRoy Smith, 30, of 48-D Crescent road, and Cecil Earl Breeden, 20, 1-F Plateau place, both of Greenbelt.

The men posted \$300 bond each pending a hearing February 20 in Hyattsville trial magistrate court.

When asked for the facts of the case Mr. McDonald replied, "That's not newspaper information. I don't think the people should know." He declined to elaborate.

Principal reason for refusing to give details, he said, is that the case has not been turned over to the Prince Georges County State's Attorney's office.

State's Attorney Blair H. Smith said, "I have never made any request that the city withhold information from the press."

Pvt. Zoellner told reporters, "I can't say anything unless Mr. McDonald says I can."

(The above story is reprinted from the Sunday edition of the Washington Star.)

## New Construction Under Way Here

Construction is underway by the Continental Construction Corporation (Warner-Kanter) on Greenbelt road between the American Legion home and the National Guard Armory. They are erecting four sample homes in a variety of types, but cannot release further details now. Sales manager is Robert Garin of Plateau Place.

Meanwhile Lakeside Estates, with ten homes completed, has two more nearing completion and five more in planning stages. Woodland Hills, which has been delayed by bath weather, expects an actual start by April—both on improvements and on home construction.

## The Long View

By Al Long

For the last several months I have watched the world—and Greenbelt—go by, while enjoying the luxury of that semi-somnolent kind of living known as convalescence. As I gradually get back into full harness and become more interested in the mundane events of the day I am struck at the close parallel of the open, and the back-of-the-scenes, pressures exerted by the gas and oil barons in Congress and the gas station zoning lobby in Greenbelt.

Salesman Sam, the GCS monopoly tycoon, has pulled all the stops, even to the extent of claiming we need some competition in town—after years of making sure that we had none. As opposition developed to putting a gas station in the entrance park area, they have changed the plans from a gas station to a civic monument—still selling gas and oil, of course. It will be a beauty spot nonpareil—not at all like the pest hole of the Northend store or the dirty eyesore of the present gas station or the unkempt sidewalk in front of the tobacco store. No noise whatsoever—customers will coast in and tippy-toe out, in the evenings they will whisper faintly and melodiously, "Two dollars worth of regular, please," in a low pitch, of course. And the manager will release nightingales to sing sweetly all day long.

In the meanwhile, to make sure we believe all this, a certain amount of pressure—er—I mean forced education is necessary. Employees and their relatives must attend Citizens Association and City Council meetings. Telephone calls and personal visits to the faithful must be made to instruct them, and, above all, employees and relatives of employees in key community positions must be made acquainted with the full implications of their responsibility. (Such public officials should withdraw from any vote or discussion or pressure on this issue, but so far the only honest person who has done this 100 percent is Frank Lastner, our county commissioner, more praise to him.)

Of course, if any average person in town wanted to build a gas station at this location, you all know what short shrift we would make of such a foolish proposal. But this is GCS, the all powerful monopoly.

When all is said and done, however, I can't help but agree with Miss Stein's famous "A rose is a rose, is a rose", and point out that a gas station is a gas station is a gas station—and not a beauty spot at the entrance to Greenbelt. An entrance way which GVHC and the city just recently spent a sum of money to landscape and improve.

## BAND SQUARES

A Square Dance will be held Tuesday, February 21, at the Center school, 7:15 p.m. sponsored by the community band.

## Our Neighbors

By Elaine Skolnik - 7586

The Jim Browns have a new baby—Her name is Kathleen Marie.

January 20 was the date;

8 lbs. 1 oz.—the weight.

A brother and sister also reside At 12-D Hillside.

February 2 was Billy Edwards' birthday. On February 5 Bill and guests Michael Foster, Johnny Tucker and Walter Fink went to the theater, and in the evening there was a Smorgasbord supper.

Sporting casts on their arms are Betty Miller, 21-N Ridge and Melanie Feldman, 56-F Crescent. Betty fell in the gymnasium and Melanie fell while skating.

Happy birthday to Jay Monahan, 48-D Hillside, who celebrated his fourth birthday Monday, February 6.

Our future "Met" stars showed off their talents Sunday at the JCC building. All the budding songsters are pupils of Ethel Gerring, 3-A Gardenway. Mrs. Louis Lushine accompanied on the piano.

Birthday greetings to Barry Novick, 45-S Ridge. Last Friday Barry's second grade classmates helped him enjoy his 8th birthday.

The father and son banquet held at the Community Church last Saturday helped raise funds for the Explorer's trip to Philmont, New Mexico.

It's so nice having the Wayne Tuckers back in Greenbelt. After living in Boise, Idaho, for fifteen months, the Tuckers now reside at 14-A Ridge. There are three Tucker children—John, Jim and Vickie. Wayne, a former GVHC board member, now works in Baltimore for the Social Security Administration, and finds commuting a cinch. Betty was a former president of the Navy Wives Club, and says the family is thrilled living in Greenbelt again.

February 13 was a special day for Fernanada Avecedo, 36-D Ridge. She was three years old.

Catherine Lipscomb and Abe Lincoln celebrate birthdays on the same day. Little Catherine was four years old on the 12th.

The second child for Mr. and Mrs. George Fisanich, 48-B Crescent, is a black-haired girl named Pamela Ann. Born February 2, she weighed 7 pounds 6 ounces, and has a brother, Patrick, 3.

James W. Rowland, whose wife, Rosemary Ann, lives at 16-N Ridge, recently was promoted to specialist third class at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, where he is assigned to the 9829th Technical Service Unit.

Specialist Rowland, an instructor with the Engineer School, entered the Army in July, 1954, and completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S. C.

Rowland was graduated from Greenbelt high school.

## Polio Vaccine Supply Inadequate In State

There is practically no vaccine to be had for eligible children under 16 years of age and over 1 year, it was announced this week by Maryland state health officials. None has been received in the state for the past 6 weeks except one small allocation which has already been distributed.

Until recently, the vaccine was shifted to areas where demand was running ahead of supply and under this practice supply was holding up. However there has been increasing interest in the program by the public, resulting in an increased demand that cannot be met by redistribution.

It is hoped that the picture will become brighter as time goes on, and that sufficient vaccine will become available to those eligible who wish it.

## GVHC Board Set For Annual Meeting; Agenda, By-Law Changes, Fund, Topics

By Al Skolnick

Clearing the deck for the annual membership meeting Wednesday, March 14, the Greenbelt Veteran Housing Corporation board of directors approved the meeting agenda last Friday night and reviewed the details of a plan for refinancing sales of housing units which will be submitted to the membership for approval.

The election of a new board will highlight the annual meeting, to be held at the Greenbelt theater, starting 8:15 p.m. Ballot boxes will be open until 7 p.m. of the next day. Attendance of 10 percent of the membership or about 145 persons is required for a quorum.

### Revolving Fund

The plan for the refinancing of sales, as explained by treasurer John Phariss, calls for the using of proceeds from the sale of the undeveloped land to set up a revolving fund which would assist buyers in the financing of homes bought from present members; in effect, provide second-mortgage financing. Such aid, it is thought, would be restricted to GVHC members who are forced to leave Greenbelt or sell their homes by conditions beyond their control.

The loan on each individual unit would be limited to 60 percent of book equity, up to a maximum of \$1000. The loan would be repaid by the purchaser over a 5-year period at 6 percent interest. It is expected that about \$20,000 from the land sale will be available during the first year for the refinancing of 20-30 homes. Since normal turnover of original Greenbelt homes is about 50 per year, this refinancing plan, said Phariss, will take care of the majority of hardship cases.

### By-Law Amendments

Two by-law amendments will be considered at the annual meeting. One concerns a revision of Article IV, aimed at clarifying GVHC membership requirements. Acquisition of membership will be clearly based upon the signing of a mutual ownership contract or installment purchase contract. Termination of membership is spelled out so as to protect the corporation by providing that a member's obligations will continue to accrue until sale of contract is approved by the board.

Other sections of the by-law change provide for joint membership in cases other than husband and wife and for facilitating the renewal of GVHC membership for members who leave Greenbelt for short periods of time.

The other by-law amendment provides for the annual membership meeting to be held the third Wednesday in March. Quarterly meetings will continue to be held during the months specified in the by-laws.

### Sales Analysis

GVHC management gave to the board an analysis of sales operations, prompted by former GVHC counsel Abraham Chasanow's charge that the corporation was losing more than 19,000 a year by engaging in the real estate business. Aside from the fact that the Chasanow analysis erroneously assumed that membership fees of over \$6,000 were counted as non-operating income in GVHC's quarterly operating statement, the management pointed out the difficulty of allocating part of fixed expenditures to selling costs, since many of these expenditures would be incurred even if GVHC did not engage in the sale of homes.

The board, while recognizing the need for keeping close tabs on sales expenses, voted in favor of retaining the present sales operations.

### New Civic Criteria

The board accepted the recommendations of a committee headed by director Bruce Bowman regarding GVHC policy toward gifts and donations to outside activities. The GVHC budget in the past has allowed up to \$600 a year for such donations on the basis that GVHC has certain civic responsibilities to maintain.

Among the criteria suggested for use in approving future requests were (1) activity should be community-wide in scope; (2) should be supported primarily by organizations rather than individuals; and (3) should reasonably be expected to serve as a catalyst in furthering desirable community goals.

## January Fire Calls

The Greenbelt Fire Department received ten calls for fire equipment during January, as follows: 4 auto accidents on Baltimore Parkway; 3 house fires; 1 brush fire; 1 oil burner fire; and 1 fill-in for the Berwyn Heights Fire Department. During this period, our firemen volunteered 37 hours and the equipment traveled 145 miles to make these calls.

## Council Sets Sessions To Get 'Master Plan'

The ground rules for a lengthy series of meetings by the city council were formulated at a special council meeting last Monday night. The sessions will be devoted to devising a "master plan" for land use in Greenbelt.

Special meetings will be held every Monday and Thursday night from 8 to 10 p.m. with additional meetings on Tuesday when a regularly scheduled Monday meeting occurs. Only invited "interests" will be permitted to speak; however citizens can be present and observe. Residents wishing to be heard by the council must make a written request to the city manager, Charles McDonald, and date and time limits for being heard will be set.

The meeting schedule is set for March and April; target date for completion of the master plan is June 1. An open public hearing is anticipated before final approval is made.

### Pending Petitions

Meanwhile, several zoning petitions are pending with the park and planning commission which are awaiting city council recommendation. These matters will be considered during the regular and special meetings and early action is expected, McDonald reported.

### THE PLOT THICKENS

Garden plots will again be assigned, it was announced this week. Re-assignments will be accepted until March 1. Plots not called for by then will be given to newcomers. Phone or write Hans Jorgensen, 19-E Hillside (GR 4-9286).

### VALENTINE DANCE

A King and Queen will be chosen at the Drop Inn "Valentine Dance" Saturday, February 18. The dance will start at 8 and last to 11:30 p.m. at the Center school auditorium. The dress will be semi-formal and refreshments will be served.

## AGENDA

### Regular Meeting

Council of the  
City of Greenbelt

FEBRUARY 20, 1956

1. Meeting called to order
2. Roll call
3. Minutes of Previous meetings
4. Petitions and requests
5. Written communications
6. Monthly report (held over from previous meeting)
7. Resolution — Determine policy on installation of sidewalks in subdivisions
8. Ordinance - second reading — Amend littering ordinance

## LATE NEWS FLASH

City manager Charles McDonald informed the city council this week that the State Roads commission is planning to change the Baltimore Parkway ramp into Greenbelt from Baltimore. It will parallel the wire fence near homes on Southway. Another ramp leading to the Parkway for Washington-bound traffic will adjoin it. The proximity of these changes to the proposed filling station presents new engineering problems to the whole situation. McDonald will consult with road authorities this week to get further information.

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# GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

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Published by the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc.  
Editor - Isadore Parker, 8922

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Advertising may be submitted by mail or delivered to the News Review 9 Parkway, GR. 3-3131, or to the Greenbelt Tobacco Store. Editorial offices open after 8:30 p.m. Tuesday. News deadline 8:30 p.m. of the Monday preceding publication.

Vol. 20

Thursday, February 16, 1956

No. 27

## Report

For the first time in months we are able to do some explaining about our newspaper.

We are down to two pages because of lack of advertising, and the revenue it brings in. With two pages, we are under a terrific handicap providing the community with the service which the newspaper is dedicated to provide. We haven't been able to please everybody.

All newspapers get their advertising from local businesses. Our local enterprises are varied, but largely owned by one organization, which is not sympathetic to our needs. Ordinarily, a community newspaper would be getting ads from the theater, variety store, barber shop, food store, drug store, valet shop, beauty shop, shoe repair shop, and filling station. It is apparent to our readers, we are sure, to what extent local businesses are advertising in our newspaper.

We have been hoping to continue until October when the present stores will be privately owned and our source of revenue more productive.

Our newspaper is now published on a week-to-week basis, not knowing whether we can meet our financial obligations from one month to the next. It is no small burden.

However we have a staff of citizens who volunteer their efforts with the proud purpose of keeping a newspaper alive in this community - to keep it alive because it is wanted and needed. Try to picture this community without a newspaper . . .

It is interesting to observe the one large business in the city emphasizing its community support, its community spirit, its community mindedness, when it needs something from the community. But these high-minded motives do not seem to extend to supporting a community newspaper which is one of the main cohesive forces in keeping the city alive as a community rather than a heterogeneous collection of individuals and organizations.

## Girl Scouts, Brownies To Gather Sunday

Greenbelt's girl scouts and brownies will gather at the Center school auditorium Sunday, February 19, at 2 p.m. for an international friendship day program, to commemorate annual Girl Scout Thinking Day, which falls on February 22.

Highlighting the program will be films of the Girl Scout Chalet in Switzerland, to be presented by Mrs. Ann Murray, one of the professional girl scout leaders in the county; and Mrs. John Elder, former Greenbelt district chairman and now program chairman of Prince George's County girl scouts. Money will be turned in for the Juliette Low fund, which sends outstanding girl scouts to the Chalet.

A group of senior girl scouts, supervised by Mrs. Ellerin, will open the meeting with a flag ceremony. Intermediates directed by Mrs. Griffin will show the group how Thinking Day is celebrated in the Netherlands, and a group of brownies, under Mrs. Robinson's direction, will give a New Zealand version of this world-wide celebration of international friendship.

Everyone in the community is invited to attend.

## Methodist Church

Sunday, February 19 - 9:30 a.m., Church School. 11 a.m., Church School, kindergarten and nursery departments. 11 a.m., Morning Worship conducted by Rev. Knock. His sermon is titled "Insight Into Suffering." 5:30 p.m., Family Fellowship Hour. Every age group including adults is invited to the Study Hour. 6:30 p.m., Family Fellowship Supper Hour. Bring snack supper.

Wednesday, February 22 - 8 p.m., Commission on Nominations meets at the church.

Thursday, February 23 - 3:45 p.m., Brownie Troop No. 109 meets. 4:30 p.m., Youth Membership Training Class meets. 6:45 p.m., Junior Choir rehearsal. 7 p.m., Girl Scout Troop No. 49 meets. 8 p.m., Adult Choir rehearsal.

## Lutheran Church

Sunday, February 19: 9:45 a.m., Sunday School and adult Bible Class. 8:30 and 11 a.m., Church Services. Holy Communion will be celebrated at the 8:30 service. Sermon by Pastor Birner. 7 p.m., Bible Forum at the church.

Wednesday, February 22: 7:30 p.m., Lenten Service. Sermon by Pastor Birner: "Servants - Of Men."

## GCS Reach Record High In Year's Sales

Total sales by Greenbelt Consumer Services for the fiscal year just concluded reached a record high of \$8,916,000, it was announced by Samuel F. Ashelman, general manager. The new annual total exceeds the previous year's figure by \$3,466,000 or an increase in only one year of 63.6 percent, Ashelman reported.

Most of the gain was traceable to the 14-month old GCS operation in Wheaton, where food, drugs and variety items are sold under one big roof in a "General Store."

Biggest revenue producer for the co-op was the Wheaton food store which chalked up \$3,134,948 in total sales. The Wheaton Variety Store sales totaled \$512,000; the service station had \$270,000 in total sales. The next largest totals were recorded by co-op Supermarkets in Greenbelt and Takoma Park.

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## GARDEN CLUB MEETS

A meeting of the Greenbelt Garden Club will be held in the home economics room of the Center school at 8 p.m. Tuesday, February 21. This is an important meeting and all members are urged to be present.

## To The Editor

### IMPRESSED WITH NEED

After attending the Council hearing last night, which lasted till well after midnight, I was strongly impressed with the need for a revision of the rules of procedure on such occasions. Would it not be well to limit all speakers, except two, one on each side, to only one speech, of not more than five minutes? That should be sufficient time to make a point, and would give more opportunity for others to be heard without keeping the Council in session till past midnight, resulting in so confusing the minds of Councilmen, as one of them said, that it became necessary to procrastinate and postpone a matter of great urgency. It would also save both Councilmen and visitors from being bored with long harangues, "full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

Yours very truly,

Robert Hull

## "LIKES A SMILE"

To the Editor:

It seems to me that the GCS-Gilbert "heated" argument on where to put a new gas station could be settled in the following manner: Have a meeting of Greenbelt citizens on a Saturday at 9 a.m. The City Council could then call for ayes and nays. If we get a new station, I would then decide where to buy gas. I like my radiator and battery checked (not just hurriedly opened and shut) and I like a smile when I say "Fill it up." "Rip O'Day"

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